

CHANGING TACTICS

General Mercier Pretends to Have
Something Up His Sleeve

WHICH WILL BE EXPLODED.

Since the Tide Has Turned In Favor of
Captain Dreyfus

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DISCORD.

Split Among the General Staff Is Likely
to Occur.

GENERAL BOISDEFRE TO BE OVERTHROWN

The Evidence Today Was Decidedly
Unfavorable to the Prisoner, Which
Discomforted the Prosecution.

Rennes, August 30.—The city of
Rennes this afternoon is filled with
rumors of conspiracies and predi-
cations of coup d'etat but noth-
ing precise can be ascertained. Gen-
eral Mercier's attitude during the
last few days has mystified his fol-
lowers in the case. He is extremely
calm and the general feeling is that
he is preparing something, the
nature of which will be revealed in
a few days.

It is now accepted as beyond ques-
tion that there is a serious division
of opinion among the generals.
When the case was running smooth-
ly against Captain Dreyfus they all
stood together, but since the tide
of evidence began to turn in his
favor as was notably the case dur-
ing the testimony of Captain Frey-
etter and Colonel Cordier, which
did much more damaging to the
general staff than the latter an-
ticipated, certain dividing lines
have become manifest between the
various cliques. General Roget,
General Lanth, Captain Cuignet and
General Grihellin, the principal keeper
of the archives of the war office, form
one coterie; General Mercier and
General Gouze form another and
General Billot and General De Bois-
defre a third.

According to one report the first
two coteries intend to throw over-
board General De Boisdefre, whom they
believe to be faltering, and declare
that he is responsible for all the errors
and illegalities of the court
martial of 1894, thus making him
a scapegoat. According to another
report General Roget, who
was not implicated in 1894, and
who even fought against Dreyfus
because he inherited from his pre-
decessors the responsibility for no
thing and placed overconfidence
in the accounts of the matter fur-
nished him by the general staff, will
throw himself loose from General
Mercier, Gouze and De Boisdefre.

This is a plausible hypothesis, since
he has assumed throughout the role
of defender of the army, thus making
himself popular with the army and with
every section of the nation and he prob-
ably would not lose by separating him-
self from the wrongdoers of 1894 and
declaring that his opinion had been chang-
ing by the evidence given during the pre-
trial.

Yet another story is that the generals
going to give the authorship of the
document in view of the strong expert
evidence and will admit that Esterhazy
did it, alleging, however, that Dreyfus
obtained the information, not direct to
himself, but to a third person who
acted as intermediary without Dreyfus
knowing Esterhazy. In this connection it
was asserted this afternoon that Madame
Lanth, who was housekeeper for
General Schwarzkoppen, the German military
attache, in 1894, and who is understood to
be acted as a French spy, has been
arrested in Rennes and will be summoned
as a witness concerning Schwarzkoppen's
message system.

If these rumors may be without founda-
tion, but in any event they are sym-
ptomatic of feeling in Rennes that some-
thing is going on under the surface and
the complexion of the trial may be
changed by some coup at any moment.

At the matter of evidence today, it
was quite a Dreyfus day, only the deposi-
tion of the last witness, General Deloye,
being unfavorable. The testimony of

BAKING POWDER

is
pure and wholesome

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